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## *The CIA Defies The Rules*

The Central Intelligence Agency — in a signal that suggests an intolerable defiance of law — has all but announced that it will not abide by rules that Congress imposes. Although a 1975 Senate resolution forbids the use of journalists, clergymen or academics as "cover" for intelligence purposes, CIA Director Stansfield Turner has admitted that — on the basis of so-called "internal" powers — he has waived the ban on the use of such personnel. The arrogant assumption of such power is not excused by the fact that the occasion for using the waiver never arose. Nor does Mr. Turner's expressed fear of "leaks" excuse him for withholding information about covert operations from congressional committees, in defiance of a requirement of prior notice.

If Mr. Turner does not like the rules laid down by Congress for his agency, he should resign, not ignore the rules. The ban against using members of certain professions in intelligence work was imposed for the very

good reason that such professionals cannot function effectively if their moral integrity is compromised. The requirement of prior notice to Congress about covert operations was imposed because of disclosures about some of the CIA's flagrantly illegal and immoral meddling in the internal affairs of other countries.

Mr. Turner's defiance of the rules should prompt the president and the Congress to call him on the carpet. Instead, the White House — ignoring Jimmy Carter's one-time pledge to make the CIA abide by the rules — is now asking for a freer hand for the agency. Fortunately, Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd insists that Congress will not give the CIA a blank check. Indeed, it shouldn't. Mr. Turner's admissions should be enough to prod Congress into writing strict new regulations, with appropriate penalties for violations, into the intelligence agency charter legislation that is now being drafted.